

2015 ANNUAL MEMBER'S MEETING-Feb. 24, 2015

Call To Order: 7:30PM

Special Guest- Mr. Robert James, the DeKalb County District Attorney. (10)

Old Business:

1-Membership drive begins this Fall and Financial Update- Rick Hollahan, Treasurer (2)

2-Cityhood: The competing cities of Lavista Hills (formerly Briarcliff and Lakeside) and Tucker have had their boundary dispute settled for them by a committee at the state legislature. Emory is adamantly against being included Lavista Hills, so this is creating islands of unincorporated n'hoods around Emory. Annexation into the City of Atlanta is also a possibility for the Druid Hills area, and may be gaining momentum since DH will be left out of Lavista Hills. How such an annexation would impact the charter cluster is uncertain, but it is understood that the Atlanta Public School Board is more amenable to charter schools than is DeKalb. Leafmore is not yet contingent to City of Atlanta property, but if Druid Hills and Victoria Estates were to go that route, then the boundary line will be getting closer.

Several area neighborhoods are asking for more time to study the options, and would prefer a moratorium on new cities or annexations for at least a year. Also, the incorporation/annexation process itself needs to be revamped to include financial impact studies on all of the county, plus HOST, and the county's other financial liabilities such as pensions. On the other hand, the commercial revenue grabbing is happening with Brookhaven reaching across I-85.

We emailed a survey to Leafmore CA members and residents Jan. 17-23 and 158 out of 721 homes responded (surveys went to about 650 homes), so there is a large margin of error.

On the choice between remaining in unincorporated DeKalb or cityhood:

Remain Unincorporated- 54.4% (86)

Favor Cityhood----- 45.5% (72)

On the city choice between Lavista Hills or annexation into Atlanta:

Lavista Hills----- 87% (128)

Atlanta Annexation-- 13% (19)

Remember that all residents will get to vote for or against joining Lavista Hills if the current bill is approved by the state legislature. (15)

3-Off Duty Police Patrols are in place. There continue to be incidents, but there also seems to be faster response times when the police are called. Thanks to Allison and Lanier Coulter, Maggie Carrillo, Carlos, Marilyn and the rest of their team. They have set up their own non-profit and focus on the issue of n'hood safety. The police they hired have been courteous and a pleasure to speak to. (5)

4-2nd Members Appreciation Party in November at Napoleon's. Over 75 members and non-members showed up for good food, adult beverages, and everyone had a good time and met new neighbors. Thanks to all who attended. The 2015 event will be part of the Membership Drive for 2016-2017 that will kick off later this summer with a newsletter and emails. You will be able to renew your 2 year membership online. (2)

5- The spur trail connection from Spring Creek Road into Mason Mill Park has been postponed because the low bidder did not meet GDOT prequalification requirements. This project is being rebid. (1)

6- Atlanta Gas Light has sent a letter on Feb. 16 to residents who live along the underground gas line regarding removal of the old 1950's 8" pipe as the new 23" pipe is ready for operation. The letter warns of construction through yards and streets as they remove the old pipe.

New Business:

1-Rob's update on real estate values in Leafmore (10)

2- Eli Zandman on new restaurants and entertainment in our area (15)

3- Board of Directors Elections: Nominees are: Sherrod Patterson, Ted Daniel, Rob Holley, Lee Leach, Alison Hondroulis, Kathy Couch, Brett Duffy, Richard Robison, Rick Hollahan, Kurt Travis, Aryeh Bondy and our newest nominee, Ken Sears. (5)

4- BLUEPRINTS- We are all aware of the problems with DeKalb County government: the P-Card scandal that took down Elaine Bower and hangs over Barnes-Sutton's head, the CEO indicted for soliciting campaign funds, a complete lack of accountability, a huge unfunded pension liability, cities picking most of the HOST money such that needed infrastructure repairs are not getting done, and the whole divide between North and South DeKalb. Since February 2014, a very diverse citizens group of volunteers from across DeKalb (50/50 white/black) has been studying these problems, and has come up with some ideas to fix DeKalb. This group is called Blueprint DeKalb, and they made their initial presentation to the public on Sept. 30th. 4 proposals to 'fix' DeKalb were presented: Hiring an independent internal auditor, a strong Board of Ethics, adopting best business practices in county procurement processes and increase transparency of this process, and lastly term limits for the BOC and BOE. DeKalb issues almost \$300 Million in purchasing contracts each year, so there is a LOT of money at stake. Shortly after the Blueprint group got started, the Interim CEO convened the Operations Task Force. The OTF issued their final report in December and made recommendations for the county's legislative package to the state. Their report includes supporting the auditor, Ethics, and gov't procurement reforms that came from the Blueprint group- although Barnes-Sutton wants to water down the auditor position to be under BOC control, and Lee May in his Jan. 22nd State of

the County said government procurement and the Board of Ethics have now been fixed 'internally'- we'll see. Several legislators have said they will support this as long as term limits are off the table, and bills were dropped by Sen. Elena Parent a few days ago that support the Blueprints (less term limits). The Blueprints group continues to meet with community groups about their research and recommendations, and is meeting with legislators and county officials to keep these reforms on track. If DeKalb can reform itself- and adopting the Blueprint version of internal improvements will go a long way towards that- then some of the pressure for annexation and/or new cities may be alleviated. You will continue to pay most of your taxes into DeKalb County (64% to the BOE) so internal reform of the county and BOE offices is still needed, whatever happens with a new city. You can support the work of the Blueprint by visiting the website www.blueprintdekalb.org where you can read the position papers on the proposed reforms. If you like what you read, please click the 'Endorse Blueprint' button and join the hundreds of names. We need thousands! (10)

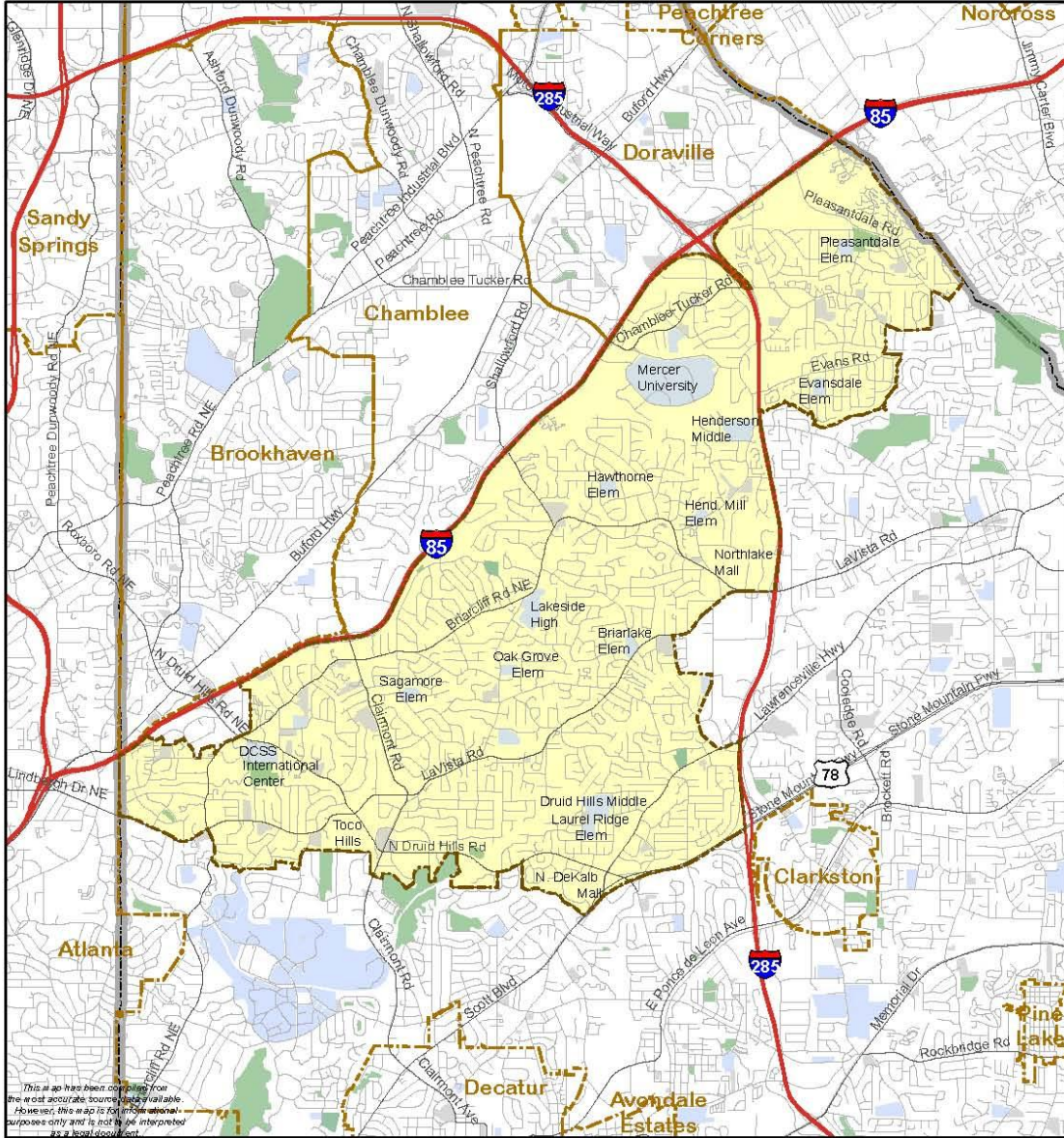
5-Request for financial support for two local events coming up- Embrace Our Green Space Race on March 28 and Oak Groove Festival on May 17th; if we contribute \$250 to each then LCPHCA we will be listed as a sponsor on the race bandanas and on the Festival website. Vote to approve?(5)

6- Pulte townhouse status (2)

7- Frazier-Rowe Park has received a \$10,000 grant from Park Pride that will be matched by Comm. Rader's office. The \$20K will be used to install an entrance sign on Lavista and a pedestrian entrance, playground equipment, picnic tables, etc. (2)

Q&A (6)

Adjourn by 9PM



This map has been compiled from the most accurate source data available. However, this map is for informational purposes only and is not to be interpreted as a legal document.

City of LaVista Hills

DeKalb County, Georgia

November 15, 2014

Updated December 19, 2014 per
Georgia House Governmental
Affairs Subcommittee



- Expressways
- Major Roads
- Education Facility
- Parks and Recreation Area
- Places of Worship
- City of LaVista Hills
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary

